

REQUEST TO APPEAR BEFORE  
THE DURHAM CITY COUNCIL  
AT THE WORK SESSION

Date: 11 / 17 / 2011

Council Work Session Meeting Date: 12 / 08 / 2011

Name: Chris Cayer

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Phone number: 781-414-1353 Fax number: NA

Organization Represented (if any): No current name

Topic: Statement of presentation you wish to make and statement of action you wish  
Council to take. Attach additional sheets if necessary.

See attachment.

Signature



This form must be returned to the Agenda Coordinator by **Monday at 5:00 pm** ten days prior to the City Council Work Session meeting at which you wish to speak. Once this form is submitted, no further reminder will be given. Citizens may call the Agenda Coordinator's Office at 560-4222 to confirm receipt of this form.

Please send this form to: Agenda Coordinator  
City Manager's Office  
101 City Hall Plaza  
Durham, North Carolina 27701  
Fax # (919) 560-4949

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AT THE WORK SESSION

Date: November 17, 2011

Council Work Session Meeting Date: 12-8-2011

Name: Chris Cayer

Address : 5010 Garrett Rd Apt -1001

Email Address: chriscayer@juno.com

Phone Number: 781-414-1353

Fax Number: N/A

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The purpose of this visit is to request the Council's guidance and support of a grassroots campaign to Amend the Constitution of the United States. Locally this movement is currently being developed by a growing number of Durham residents/voters This amendment would counter the "Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission" Supreme Court decision of 2009. This amendment would reverse this ruling which effectively gave for profit corporations the rights of a person and declared that the spending of corporation monies were equal to free speech.

Currently amendment legislation, H.J. Res. 78, has been proposed by Rep. Donna Edwards (D-Md) and Rep. John Conyers (D-Mich). The movement is being supported by 'Public Citizen' a non-profit lobbyist organization with offices in Wash D.C. , "Get The Money Out" championed by Dylan Ratigan of MSNBC and affiliated United Republic as well as other grassroots with others.

Our current goals include seeking a City Council resolution of support for an amendment. Placement of this issue on a ballot as a non binding referendum for the people to vote on. Such votes have taken place in Boulder Colorado and Missoula Missouri and passed with @ 75% of the vote on the issue.

Respectfully

Chris Cayer



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## Model Resolution

**CALL TO ACTION: Organize Your Town to Pass a Resolution to Legalize Democracy and Abolish Corporate Personhood!**

[Print version \(.pdf\) here... \(http://bit.ly/MTA-ModelResolution\)](http://bit.ly/MTA-ModelResolution)

**Whereas**, government of, by, and for the people has long been a cherished American value, and We The People's fundamental and inalienable right to self-govern, and thereby secure rights to life, liberty, property, and the pursuit of happiness is guaranteed in the US Constitution and the Declaration of Independence, and;

**Whereas**, free and fair elections are essential to democracy and effective self-governance, and;

**Whereas**, persons are rightfully recognized as human beings whose essential needs include clean air, clean water, safe and secure food, and;

**Whereas**, corporations are entirely human-made legal fictions created by express permission of We The People and our government, and;

**Whereas**, corporations can exist in perpetuity, can exist simultaneously in many nations at once, need only profit for survival, and exist solely through the legal charter imposed by the government of We The People, and;

**Whereas**, in addition to these advantages, the great wealth of large corporations allows them to wield coercive force of law to overpower human beings and communities, thus denying We The People's exercise of our Constitutional rights, and;

**Whereas**, corporations are not mentioned in the Constitution, and The People have never granted constitutional rights to corporations, nor have We decreed that corporations have authority that exceeds the authority of We The People of the United States, and;

**Whereas**, interpretation of the US Constitution by appointed Supreme Court justices to include corporations in the term 'persons' has long denied We The Peoples' exercise of self-governance by endowing corporations with Constitutional protections intended for We The People, and;

**Whereas**, the illegitimate judicial bestowal of civil and political rights upon corporations usurps basic human and Constitutional rights guaranteed to human persons, and also empowers corporations to sue municipal and state governments for adopting laws that violate 'corporate rights' even when those laws serve to protect and defend the rights of human persons and communities, and;

**Whereas**, corporations are not and have never been human beings, and therefore are rightfully subservient to human beings and governments as our legal creations, and;

**Whereas**, large corporations' profits and survival are often in direct conflict with the essential needs and rights

of human beings, and;

**Whereas**, the recent *Citizens United v. the Federal Election Commission* Supreme Court decision that rolled back the legal limits on corporate spending in the electoral process creates an unequal playing field and allows unlimited corporate spending to influence elections, candidate selection, policy decisions and sway votes, and forces elected officials to divert their attention from The Peoples' business, or even vote against the interest of their human constituents, in order to ensure competitive campaign funds for their own re-election, and;

**Whereas**, large corporations own most of America's mass media and use that media as a megaphone to express loudly their political agenda and to convince Americans that their primary role is that of consumers, rather than sovereign citizens with rights and responsibilities within our democracy, and this forces citizens to toil to discern the truth behind headlines and election campaigning, and;

**Whereas**, tens of thousands of people and municipalities across the nation are joining with the Move to Amend campaign to call for an Amendment to the US Constitution to Abolish Corporate Personhood;

**Therefore be it resolved** that the State of (City of, County of, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_ hereby calls on our (legislators, elected officials, mayor, commissioners, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_ to join the tens of thousands of citizens, grassroots organizations and local governments across the county in the Move to Amend campaign to call for an Amendment to the Constitution to Abolish Corporate Personhood and return our democracy, our elections, our communities back to America's human persons and to thus reclaim our sovereign right to self-governance.

**Be it further resolved** that the State of (City of, County of, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_ calls on other communities and jurisdictions to join with us in this action by passing similar Resolutions.

**Be it further resolved** that the State of (City of, County of, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_ supports education to increase public awareness of the threats to our democracy posed by Corporate Personhood, and encourages lively discussion to build understanding and consensus to take appropriate community and municipal actions to democratically respond to these threats.

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_





END CORPORATE RULE. LEGALIZE DEMOCRACY.

# MOVE TO AMEND

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** August 17, 2011

**CONTACT:** Kaitlin Sopoci-Belknap, [kaitlin@MoveToAmend.org](mailto:kaitlin@MoveToAmend.org), (707) 362-0626 (NATIONAL)  
Carolyn Bninski, [carolynbn@earthlink.net](mailto:carolynbn@earthlink.net), (720) 509-3378 (BOULDER)

## **Boulder City Council Approves Anti-Corporate Personhood Referendum for November Ballot**

BOULDER, CO - Just days after Republican presidential hopeful Mitt Romney angered attendees at the Iowa State Fair by declaring that "corporations are people," the court-created doctrine of "corporate personhood" is once again making headlines.

On Tuesday evening the City Council of Boulder, Colorado voted to place a referendum on the November ballot calling for an amendment to the U.S. Constitution declaring that corporations are not people and money is not speech. Boulder's decision came after months of grassroots organizing by Move to Amend, a national coalition working to abolish corporate personhood.

"This is a very important development at exactly the right time," said Kaitlin Sopoci-Belknap, a national spokesperson for Move to Amend. "Americans are fed up with corporate dominance of our political system. The people of Boulder have an opportunity to lead the way for other communities throughout the country by taking a strong stand."

Boulder's decision comes just months after voters in Madison and Dane County, Wisconsin overwhelmingly approved measures calling for an end to corporate personhood and the legal status of money as speech by 84% and 78% respectively.

"[The Citizens United decision] is a real threat to our government, and whatever we can do to change it, I think we should," stated Councilman Ken Wilson.

Similar resolutions have been passed in nearly thirty other cities and counties. Resolutions have also been introduced in the state legislatures of Vermont, Washington, Montana, and New Mexico. The City Council of Missoula, Montana will be considering placing such a measure on the ballot next week.

"We are excited to be a part of this rapidly growing national effort," said Carolyn Bninski, a local organizer with Boulder Move to Amend. "The strength of Move to Amend's strategy is that it is based on grassroots work at the local level. This is the only way to build a movement powerful enough to take on entrenched corporate interests."

Move to Amend is a national coalition of hundreds of organizations and 130,000 individuals. The group is committed to building a grassroots movement to demand corporate accountability to the public by abolishing corporate personhood through an amendment to the US Constitution.

For more information visit <http://www.MoveToAmend.org>.

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